

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A confirming FAX machine comprising:

a) means for scanning each page of a document and sending the information scanned electronically to a receiving FAX machine; and

b) means for marking each page of a document scanned and sent by said FAX machine with an ink message.

2. The confirming FAX machine of claim 1, wherein said ink message is printed with an invisible ink which is only visible in the UV spectrum; and further comprising means for reading said marking to confirm the sending of said each page of said document.

3. The confirming FAX machine of claim 2, wherein said means for reading said marking is a low power UV pen light.

4. The confirming FAX machine of claim 2, wherein said FAX machine comprises a document output tray for receiving said each page of said document sent, said confirmation device further comprising a low power UV light so mounted on said FAX machine as to illuminate said marking on each said page of said document as it enters said document tray.

1 5. The confirming FAX machine of claim 1, wherein said
2 marking means is a printer for marking data, such as date, time the
3 FAX is sent, and telephone number to which the FAX is sent.

1 6. The confirming FAX machine of claim 5, further comprising
2 a printer controller for receiving electrical signals representing
3 time, date, and FAX number from said FAX machine and controls said
4 printer by sending corresponding electrical control signals to said
5 printer.

1 7. The confirming FAX machine of claim 6, wherein said
2 printer controller is programmed to scroll the carriage of said
3 printer down a line at a time for each page faxed until programmed
4 to return to the top of a page, whereby the chances of overwriting
5 a confirmation marking made when previously FAXED is significantly
6 reduced.

1 8. The confirming FAX machine of claim 7, wherein said
2 printer is an ink jet printer.

1 9. The confirming FAX machine of claim 7, wherein said
2 printer is a thermal process printer.

1 10. The confirming FAX machine of claim 9, wherein said
2 thermal process printer comprises a print engine, having a pressing
3 roller which presses the document against a ribbon coated with
4 invisible ink, and a printer head on the opposite side of the
5 ribbon and document which melts small dots of the ink which are
6 pressed against the document to form said markings.

1 11. A method of confirming the scanning and sending of each
2 page of a document by a FAX machine comprising the steps of:

- 3 a) scanning and sending said page of each document by
4 said FAX machine; and
5 b) marking each said page of said document with ink.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein said ink is only visible
2 in the UV range.

1 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of
2 reading each marking under a UV lamp to confirm that said page was
3 scanned and sent.

1 14. The method of claim 11, wherein said mark includes the
2 time, the date and the FAX number to which the document is sent.

1 15. A FAX confirmation device comprising means for marking
2 each page of a document scanned and sent by said FAX machine with
3 an ink message, said FAX confirmation device being adapted for
4 attachment with a FAX machine at a point past the output of the
5 scanner of said FAX machine.

1 16. The FAX confirmation device of claim 15, wherein said ink
2 message is printed with an invisible ink which is only visible in
3 the UV spectrum; and further comprising means for reading said
4 marking to confirm the sending of said each page of said document.

1 17. The confirming FAX machine of claim 16, wherein said
2 means for reading said marking is a low power UV pen light.

1 18. The confirming FAX machine of claim 16, wherein said FAX
2 machine comprises a document output tray for receiving said each
3 page of said document sent, said confirmation device further
4 comprising a low power UV light so mounted on said FAX machine as
5 to illuminate said marking on each said page of said document as it
6 enters said document tray.

1 19. The confirming FAX machine of claim 15, wherein said
2 marking means is a printer for marking data, such as date, time the
3 FAX is sent, and telephone number to which the FAX is sent.

1 20. The confirming FAX machine of claim 5, further comprising
2 a printer controller for receiving electrical signals representing
3 time, date, and FAX number from said FAX machine and controlling
4 said printer by sending corresponding electrical control signals to
5 said printer.